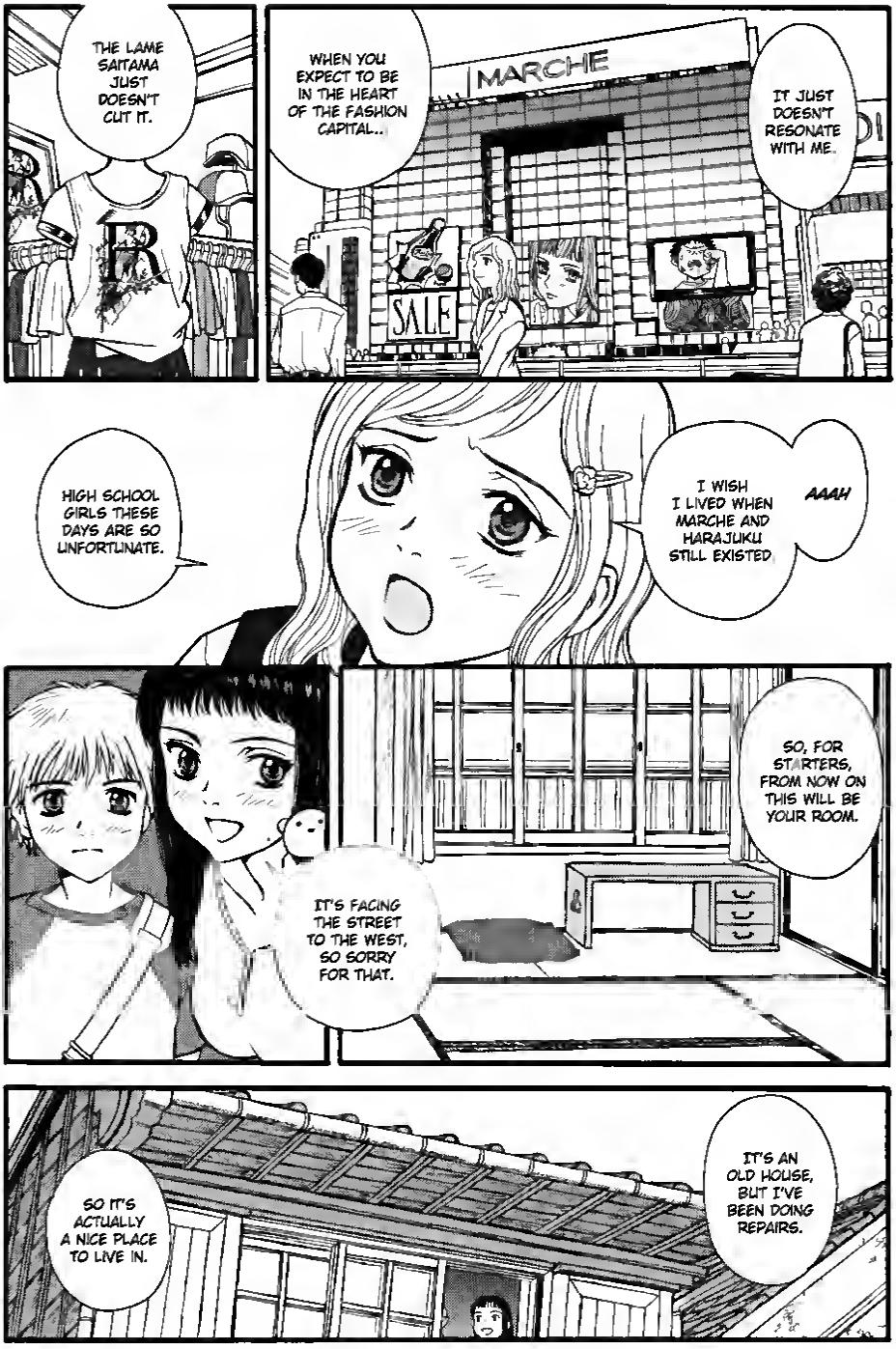
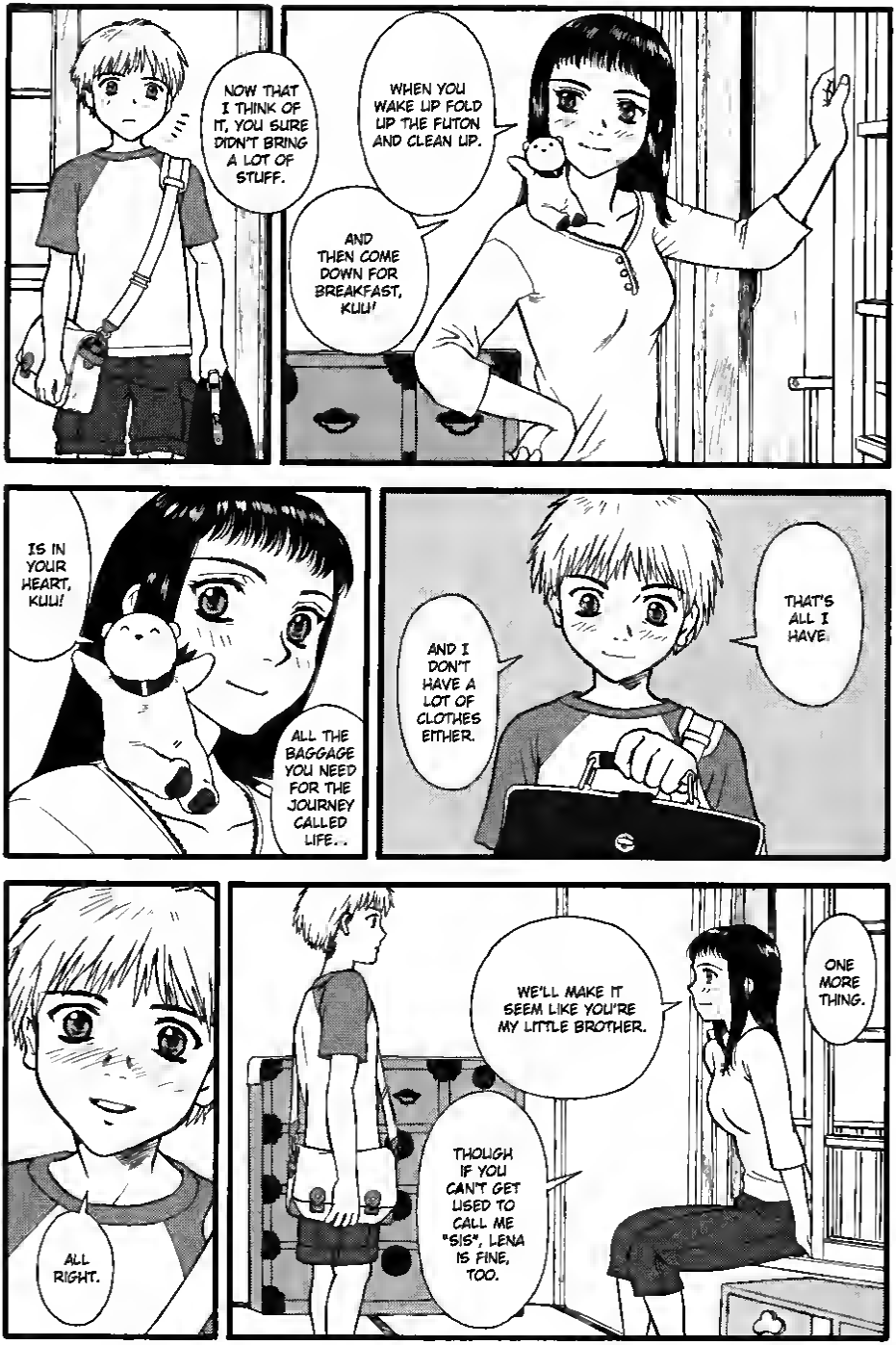
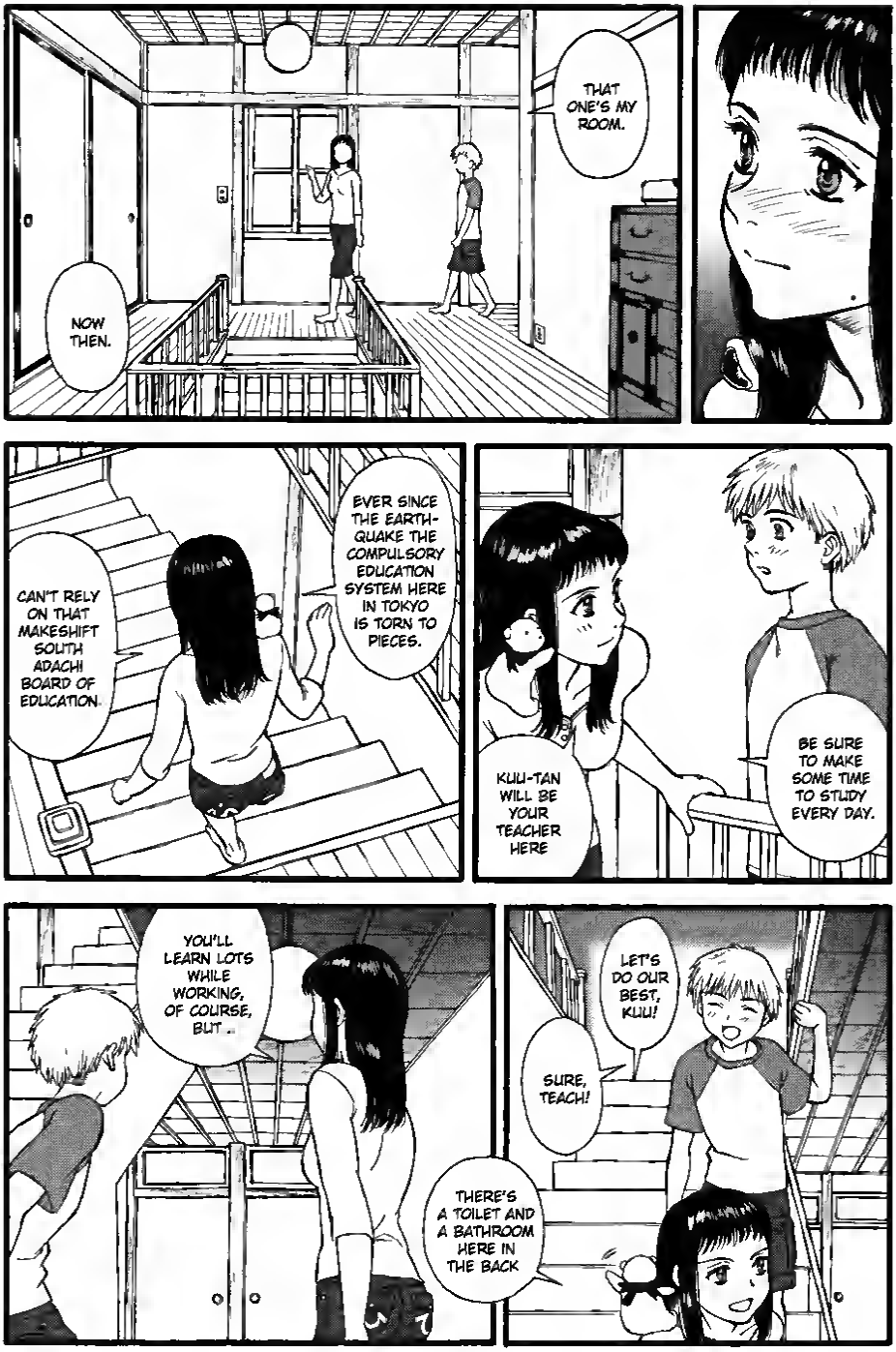
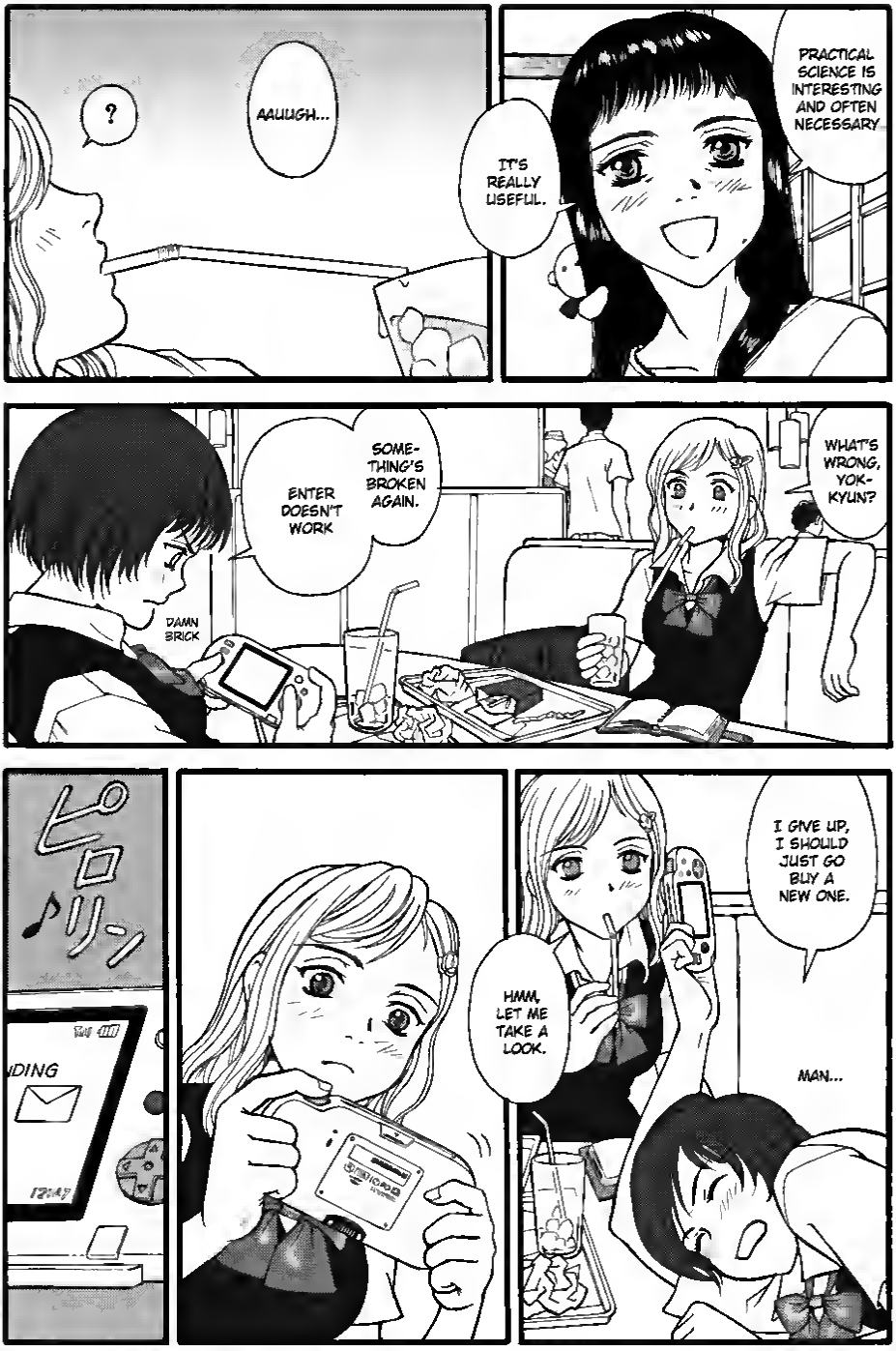
Chapter 2

CRE CHI
HMM...
IN EVERY ONE OF THESE.
AND IN EVERY STORE, TOO.
LOVEROAR
AGAIN WITH THE "HMM"?
SOMETHING'S STILL OFF.
SOME-THING'S MISSING.
MAYBE IT'S THE MIMICRY OR THE LACK OF PERSO-NALITY.
HMM...
BUT ISN'T THIS CUTE? LOOK!
YOU THINK?

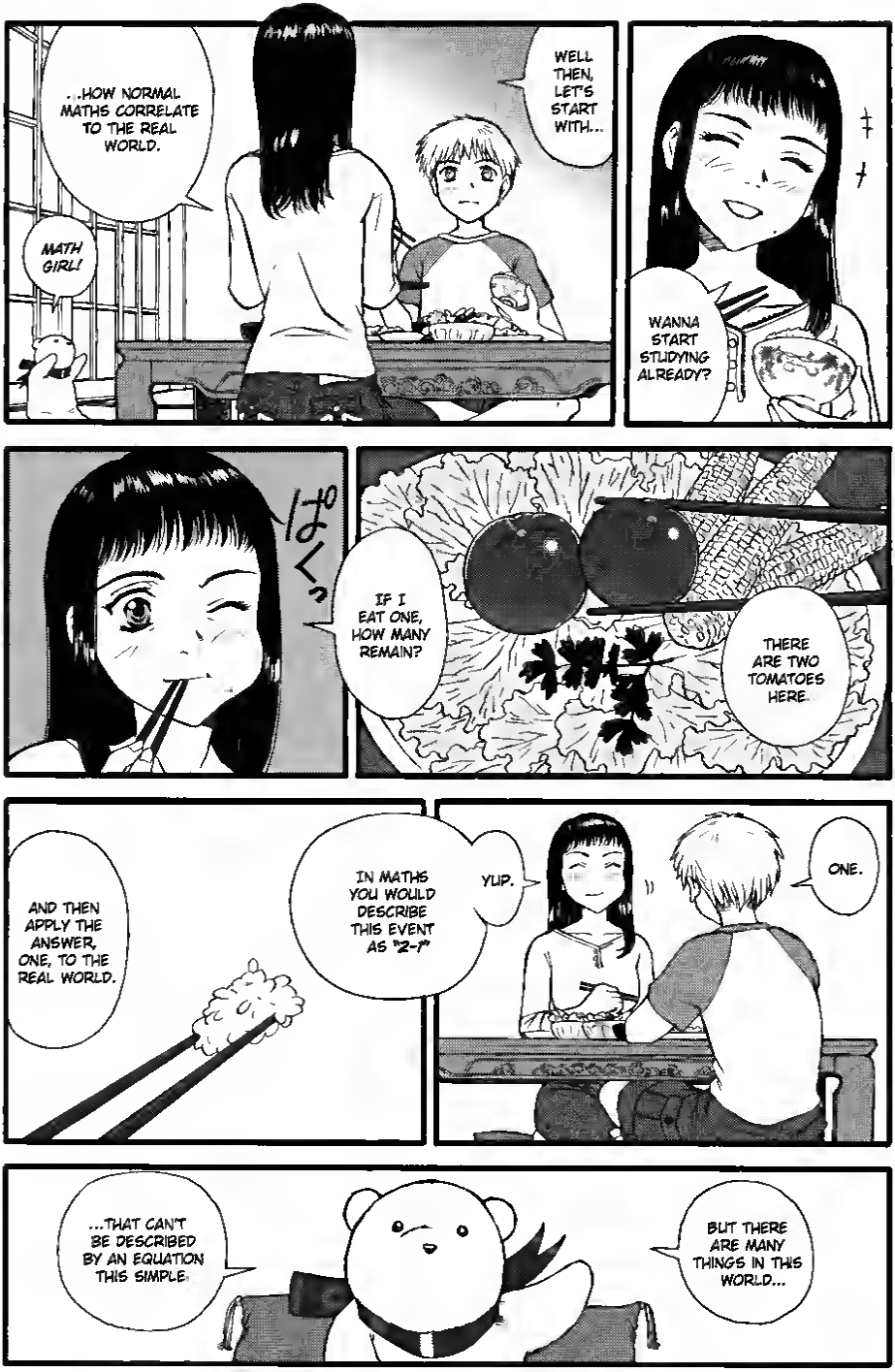

THE LAME SAITAMA JUST DOESN'T CUT IT.
WHEN YOU EXPECT TO BE IN THE HEART OF THE FASHION CAPITAL...
MARCHE
SALE
IT JUST DOESN'T RESONATE WITH ME.
HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS THESE DAYS ARE SO UNFORTUNATE.
I WISH I LIVED WHEN MARCHE AND HARAJUKU STILL EXISTED
AAAH
SO, FOR STARTERS, FROM NOW ON THIS WILL BE YOUR ROOM.
IT'S FACING THE STREET TO THE WEST, SO SORRY FOR THAT.
SO IT'S ACTUALLY A NICE PLACE TO LIVE IN.
IT'S AN OLD HOUSE, BUT I'VE BEEN DOING REPAIRS.

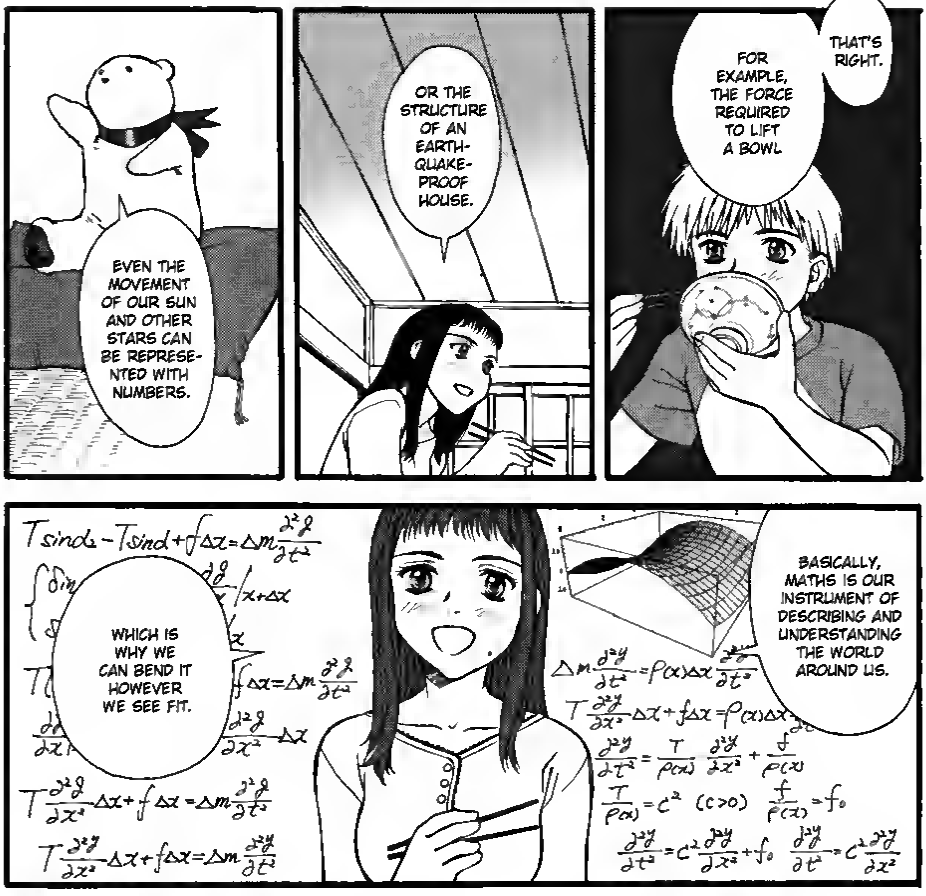

NOW THAT I THINK OF IT, YOU SURE DIDN'T BRING A LOT OF STUFF.
WHEN YOU WAKE UP FOLD UP THE FUTON AND CLEAN UP.
AND THEN COME DOWN FOR BREAKFAST, KUU!
IS IN YOUR HEART, KUU!
ALL THE BAGGAGE YOU NEED FOR THE JOURNEY CALLED LIFE..
THAT'S ALL I HAVE.
AND I DON'T HAVE A LOT OF CLOTHES EITHER.
ONE MORE THING.
WE'LL MAKE IT SEEM LIKE YOU'RE MY LITTLE BROTHER.
THOUGH IF YOU CAN'T GET USED TO CALL ME "SIS", LENA IS FINE, TOO.
ALL RIGHT.


NOW THEN.
THAT ONE'S MY ROOM.
CAN'T RELY ON THAT MAKESHIFT SOUTH ADACHI BOARD OF EDUCATION.
EVER SINCE THE EARTH-QUAKE THE COMPULSORY EDUCATION SYSTEM HERE IN TOKYO IS TORN TO PIECES.
KUU-TAN WILL BE YOUR TEACHER HERE
BE SURE TO MAKE SOME TIME TO STUDY EVERY DAY.
YOU'LL LEARN LOTS WHILE WORKING, OF COURSE, BUT...
THERE'S A TOILET AND A BATHROOM HERE IN THE BACK
SURE, TEACH!
LET'S DO OUR BEST, KUU!

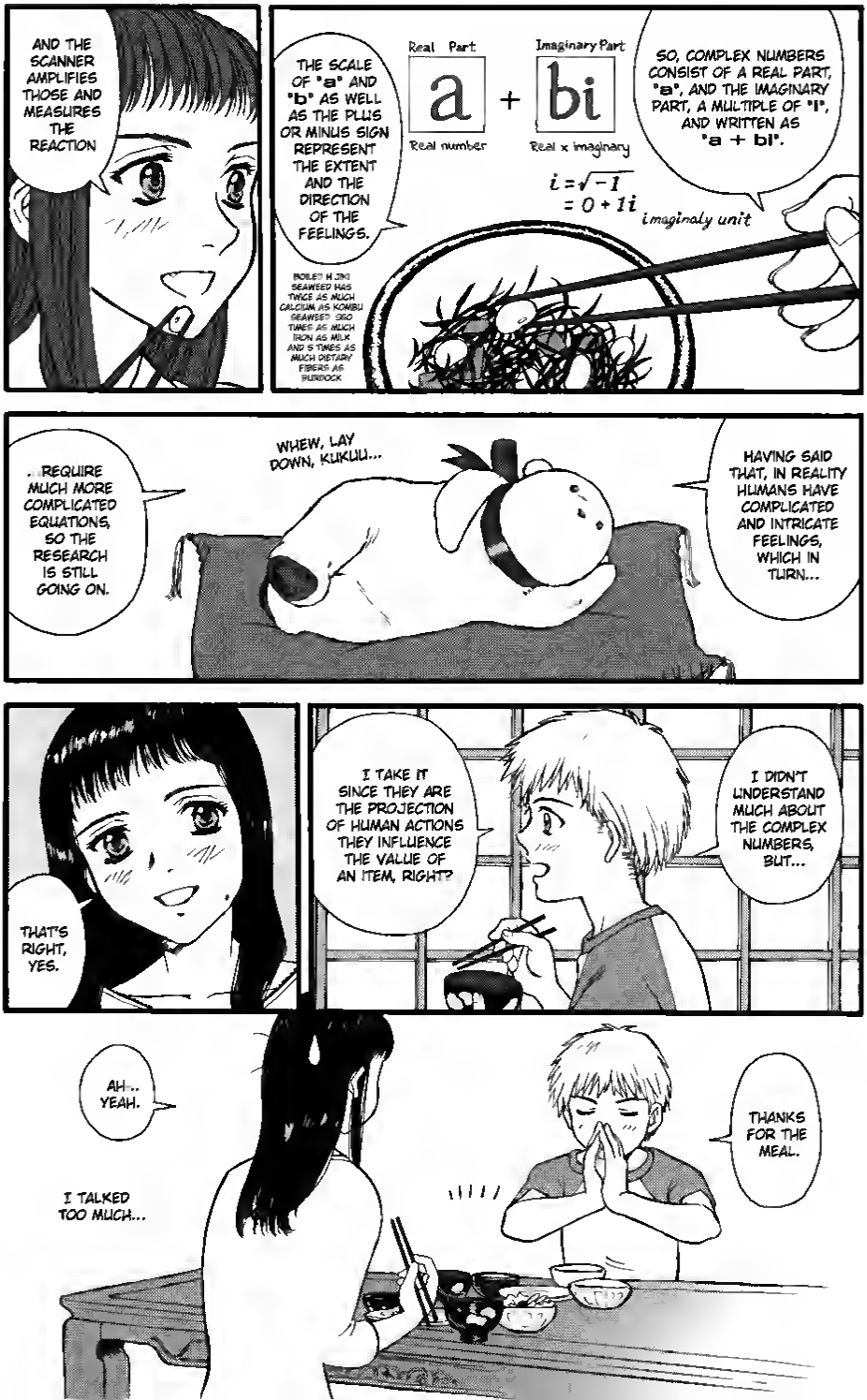

?
AAUUGH...
IT'S REALLY USEFUL.
PRACTICAL SCIENCE IS INTERESTING AND OFTEN NECESSARY
DAMN BRICK
ENTER DOESN'T WORK
SOME-THING'S BROKEN AGAIN.
WHAT'S WRONG, YOK-KYUN?
ピロリーン
HMM, LET ME TAKE A LOOK.
I GIVE UP, I SHOULD JUST GO BUY A NEW ONE.
MAN...

YOU'RE REALLY GOOD AT THIS KIND OF THING!
IT'S REALLY WORKING, AWESOME!
EH?
YOU'RE KIDDING?!
Message sent.
I THINK I FIXED IT?
IT'S EXPENSIVE SO YOU'VE GOT TO BE CAREFUL.
NOT AT ALL.
THAT'S MY JOB THOUGH.
AT THE END OF THE DAY WE SUM UP THE SALES.
AT THIS STORE THE PRICE TAGS FACTOR IN THE IMAGINARY VALUES ALREADY SO YOU CAN JUST USE NORMAL MATHS FOR THOSE.
CAN YOU TELL ME MORE ABOUT THESE IMAGINARY NUMBERS?
UM...


...HOW NORMAL MATHS CORRELATE TO THE REAL WORLD.
WELL THEN, LET'S START WITH...
MATH GIRL!
WANNA START STUDYING ALREADY?
IF I EAT ONE, HOW MANY REMAIN?
THERE ARE TWO TOMATOES HERE.
AND THEN APPLY THE ANSWER, ONE, TO THE REAL WORLD.
IN MATHS YOU WOULD DESCRIBE THIS EVENT AS "2-1"
YUP.
ONE.
...THAT CAN'T BE DESCRIBED BY AN EQUATION THIS SIMPLE.
BUT THERE ARE MANY THINGS IN THIS WORLD...


EVEN THE MOVEMENT OF OUR SUN AND OTHER STARS CAN BE REPRESE-NTED WITH NUMBERS.
OR THE STRUCTURE OF AN EARTH-QUAKE-PROOF HOUSE.
THAT'S RIGHT.
FOR EXAMPLE, THE FORCE REQUIRED TO LIFT A BOWL
WHICH IS WHY WE CAN BEND IT HOWEVER WE SEE FIT.
BASICALLY, MATHS IS OUR INSTRUMENT OF DESCRIBING AND UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD AROUND US.
IMAGINARY AND COMPLEX NUMBERS HELP US SOLVE MANY PROBLEMS IN THE "MATH WORLD" IN AN EFFICIENT MANNER.
BUT...
IF THEY'RE NOT REAL, THEN HOW COME THAT DEVICE CAN MEASURE THEM?
EVEN THOUGH THEY DON'T EXIST IN REALITY, KUU.
THAT'S WHERE IT GETS INTERE-STING.

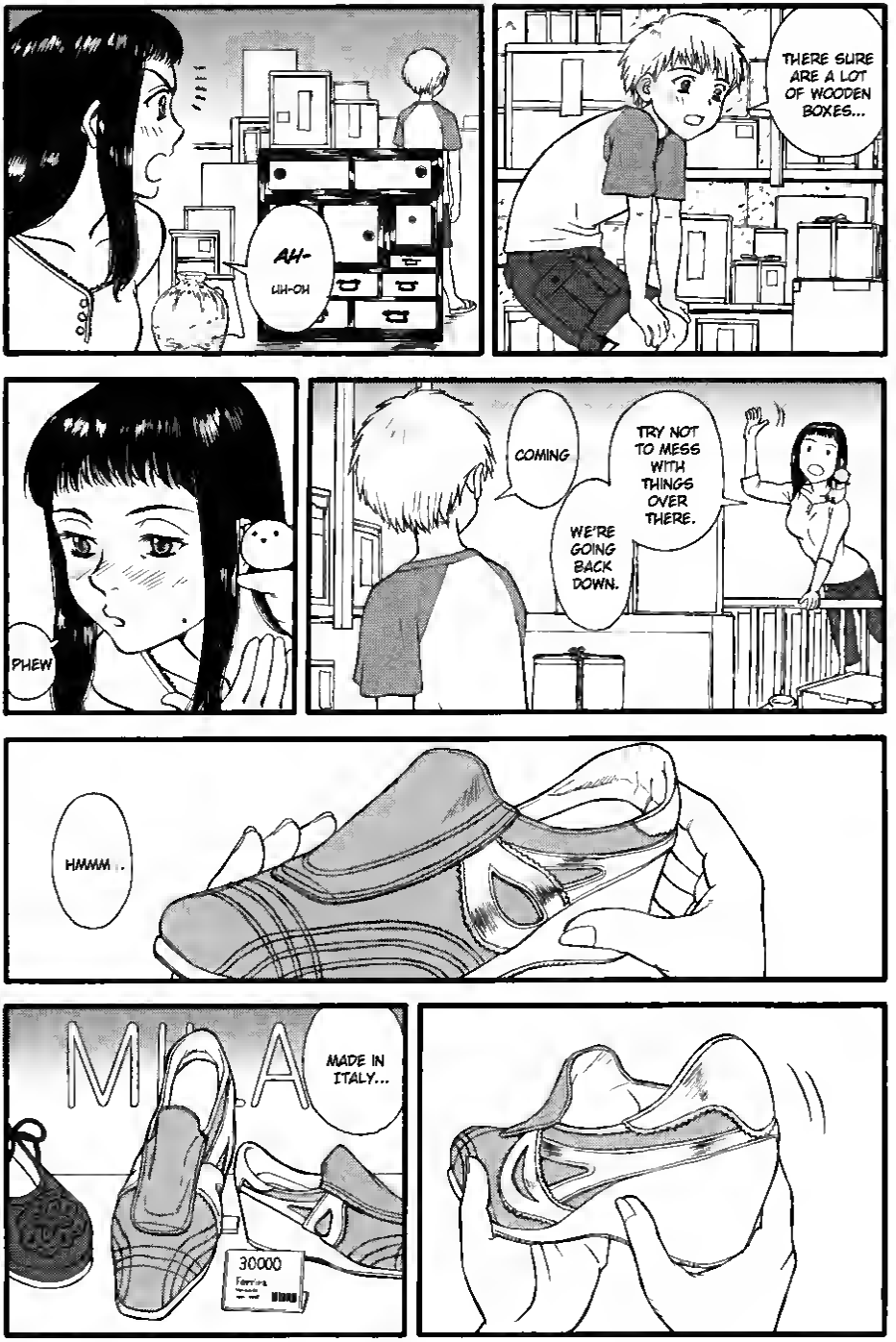
...AS A CONVENIENT TOOL FOR MATHEMATICS
FOR A LONG TIME COMPLEX NUMBERS WERE SIMPLY REGARDED ..
AND THAT'S SOMETHING THAT EXISTS IN NEITHER MATHS NOR PHYSICS.
BUT AT THE END OF THE 20TH CENTURY IT WAS DISCOVERED THAT THEY ACTUALLY REPRESENT SPIRITUAL ACTIVITY
BEFORE LONG THIS LITERARY HYPOTHESIS WAS PROVEN BY EXTENSIVE RESEARCH. THE MEASURING EQUIPMENT WAS DEVELOPED IN LESS THAN A DECADE AFTER THAT.
NOBODY ELSE IN THE ENTIRE WORLD NOTICED THIS POSSIBILITY.
THE IDEA WAS FIRST SUGGESTED IN A NOVEL BY YUKA MINAKAWA.
TRULY A DRAMATIC DEVELOPMENT.
.....
THAT'S FOR ANOTHER TIME
WELL, THAT'S WHERE MY QUESTION ABOUT GHOSTS AND FAIRIES CAME FROM.
AIN'T IT LOVELY?
WHAT'S E=MC²?
HUMANS CAN BARELY UNDERSTAND E=MC², BUT AT LONG LAST TRACKED DOWN THE LOCATION OF THE SPIRIT
AAH


AND THE SCANNER AMPLIFIES THOSE AND MEASURES THE REACTION
THE SCALE OF "a" AND "b" AS WELL AS THE PLUS OR MINUS SIGN REPRESENT THE EXTENT AND THE DIRECTION OF THE FEELINGS.
BOILED HIJIKI SEAWEED HAS TWICE AS MUCH CALCIUM AS KOMBU SEAWEED. SEO TIMES AS MUCH IRON AS MILK AND 5 TIMES AS MUCH DIETARY FIBERS AS BURDOCK
Real Part
a
Real number
+
Imaginary Part
bi
Real x imaginary
$i = \sqrt{-1}$
$= 0 + 1i$
imaginaly unit
SO, COMPLEX NUMBERS CONSIST OF A REAL PART, "a", AND THE IMAGINARY PART, A MULTIPLE OF "i", AND WRITTEN AS "a + bi".
. REQUIRE MUCH MORE COMPLICATED EQUATIONS, SO THE RESEARCH IS STILL GOING ON.
WHEW, LAY DOWN, KUKUU...
HAVING SAID THAT, IN REALITY HUMANS HAVE COMPLICATED AND INTRICATE FEELINGS, WHICH IN TURN...
THAT'S RIGHT, YES.
I TAKE IT SINCE THEY ARE THE PROJECTION OF HUMAN ACTIONS THEY INFLUENCE THE VALUE OF AN ITEM, RIGHT?
I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND MUCH ABOUT THE COMPLEX NUMBERS, BUT...
AH... YEAH.
I TALKED TOO MUCH...
THANKS FOR THE MEAL.

WHY DON'T YOU COME DOWN HERE?
AAH.
I WONDER IF IT'S BECAUSE OF THE ASH AGAIN
Shhhhh
POOR SIGNAL
圏外
HUH...
WHAT? YOU'RE IN CLASS?
CAN YOU HEAR ME?
EH? I CAN'T HEAR YOU.
GOTTA FIND A LANDLINE.
大宮駅
ŌMIYA
EVEN THOUGH THERE WAS NO WARNING.

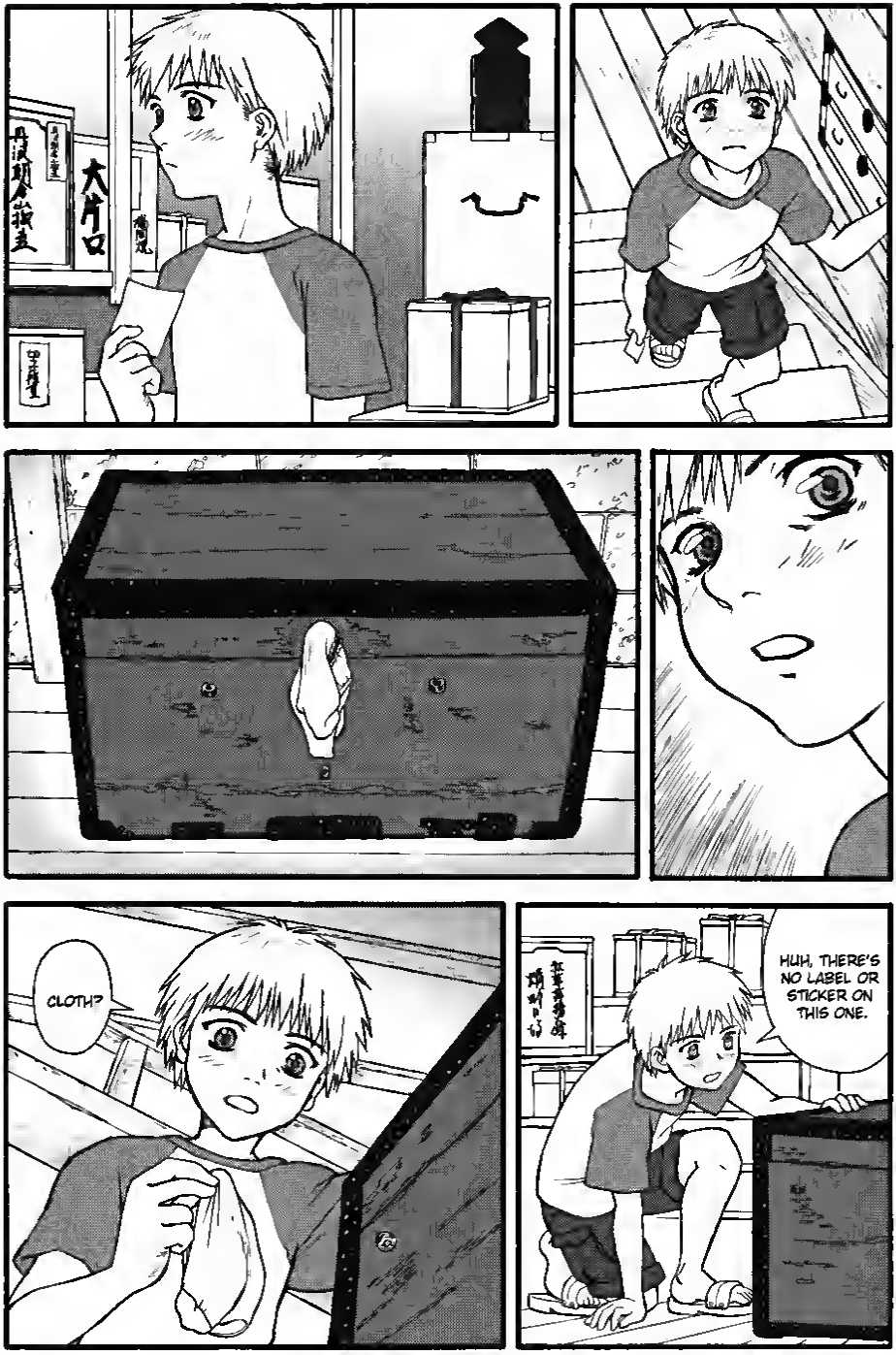
AAAH..
TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT THE DOOR.
IF YOU MIX LIME, GLUE AND SAND, ADD THE SPECIAL HAIZUMI OIL INK TO THE PLASTER AND POLISH IT...
YOU GET BEAUTIFUL SHINE.
DOORS MADE OF BLACK PLASTER WERE THE PRIDE OF THE ARTISANS OF OLD, KUU!
WOW, IT'S SO CLEAN!
KITA-SENJU IS AN OLD DISTRICT THAT RUNS ALONG ONE OF THE HISTORICALLY MAJOR ROUTES SO THERE ARE A LOT OF OLD BUILDINGS AND WAREHOUSES LIKE THIS HERE.
IT CAN WITHSTAND EARTHQUAKES, ERUPTIONS AND EVEN WARS
THE PLASTER PROTECTS THE GOODS INSIDE FROM FIRE AND HUMIDITY, KUU!
I SEE...
ガラ
ガラ

...VOLCANIC "OYA" ROCKS AND THE OUTSIDE IS COVERED BY SPECIALLY-MADE PLASTER.
ON THE INSIDE THIS CELLAR IS MADE OF...
AND THE RESERVE STOCK IS ALSO HERE.
SOME OF THE WARES ARE HERE ON DISPLAY
THIS IS AWESOME
WOW

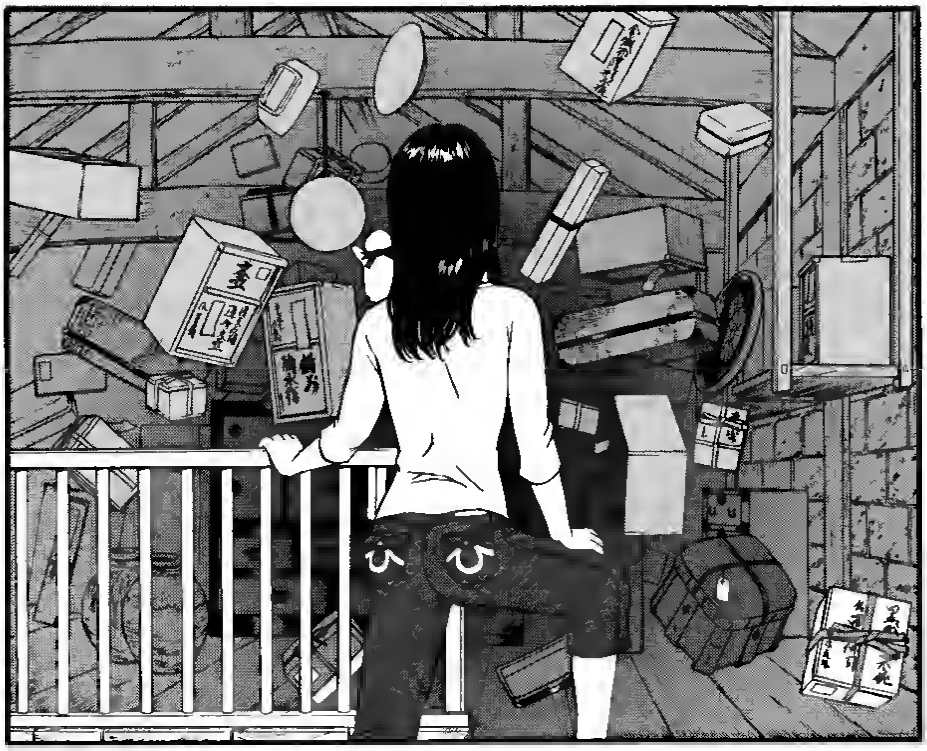

AH-
UH-OH
THERE SURE ARE A LOT OF WOODEN BOXES...
PHEW
COMING
TRY NOT TO MESS WITH THINGS OVER THERE.
WE'RE GOING BACK DOWN.
HMMM..
MADE IN ITALY...
30000

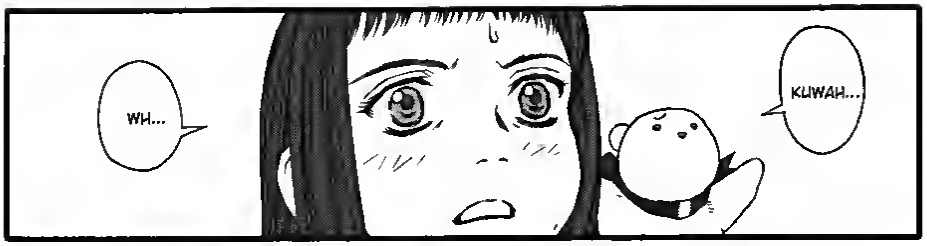
THESE WOULD GO WELL WITH THOSE SHOES...
BUT IMPORTED CLOTHES ARE QUITE EXPENSIVE...
MAYBE I SHOULD FIND SOME PART-TIME JOB.
WHERE SHOULD I LOOK?
SO PLEASE BRING THIS FROM THE CELLAR.
I NEED TO DELIVER IT TO A RESTAURANT IN MACHIYA LATER TODAY.
THIS IS WHAT'S WRITTEN ON THE LABEL OF THE BOX.
YOU'LL LEARN YOUR WAY AROUND THE CELLAR BY LOOKING FOR IT.
HEHEH

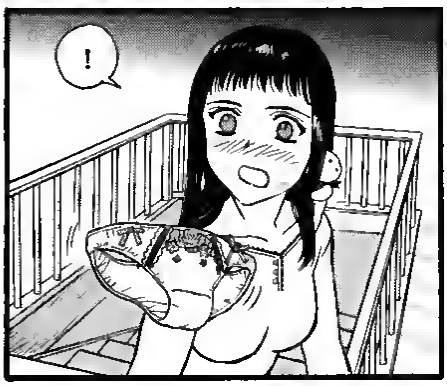
AH
Takatori ceramics Kake-wake enamel tied letter mukozuke plates
WHAT DOES THIS EVEN MEAN...
SO THIS IS WHAT THESE "TAKATORI" THINGS ARE LIKE..
WOAH.
TAKATORI KAKE-WAKE ENAMEL WATER JAR...
TAKATORI AMBER-COLORED FOLDING FAN MUKOZUKE PLATES..
TAKATORI... MUKOZUKE... FLOWERING QUINCE...
YEAH, NOT THIS ONE.
!
MAYBE IT'S UP-STAIRS.
HMM
...WAIT.
WHAT AM I EVEN DOING.

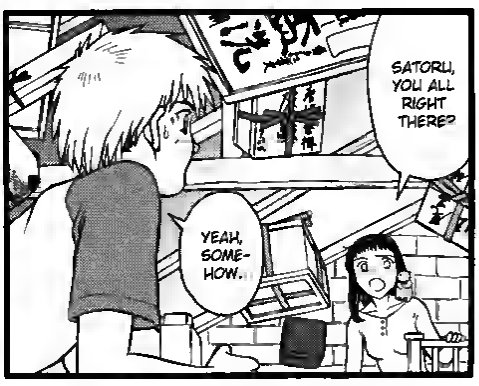

CLOTH?
HUH, THERE'S NO LABEL OR STICKER ON THIS ONE.

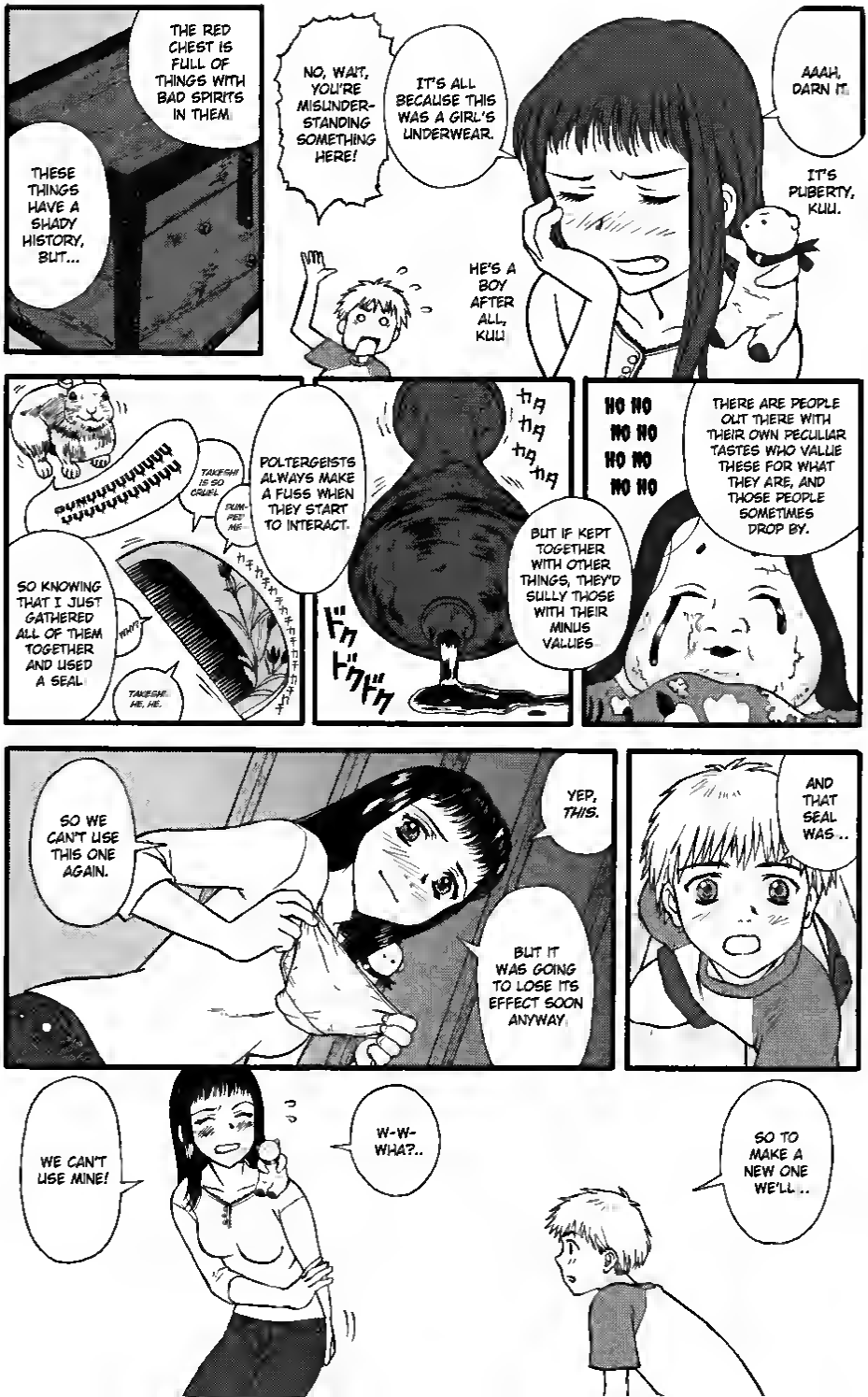
UWAAH!
WHY?!
!
ガ
ゴロン
ガタガタガタガタ
WHY'RE YOU MAKING SUCH A NOISE..
KUU
OH?
UWAAAAAAAH!

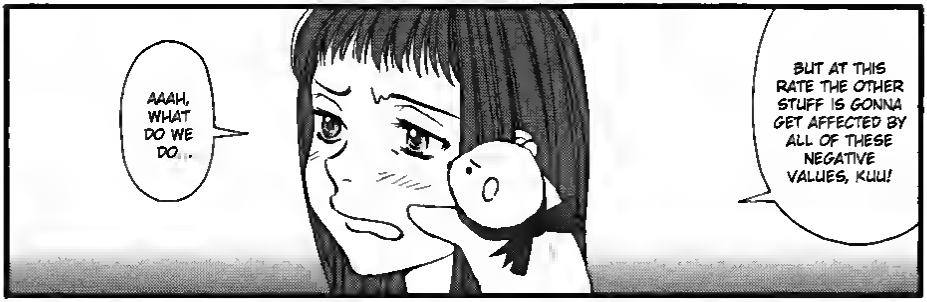


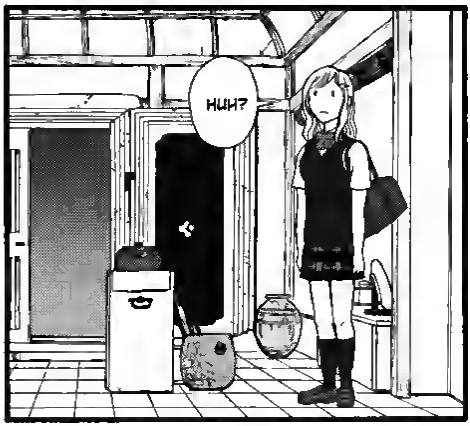

WH...
KUWAH...

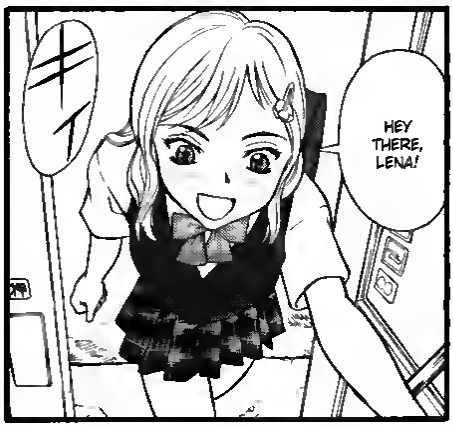

!

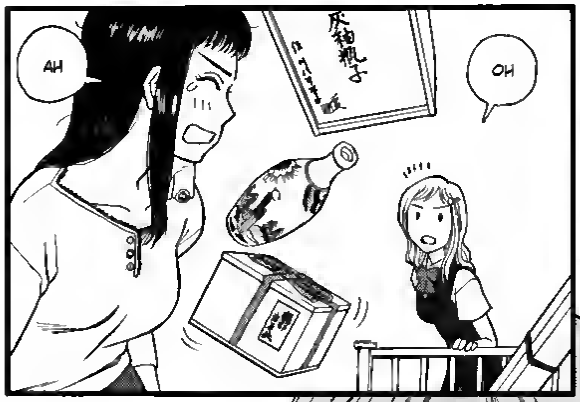

SATORU, YOU ALL RIGHT THERE?
YEAH, SOME-HOW.


THE RED CHEST IS FULL OF THINGS WITH BAD SPIRITS IN THEM.
THESE THINGS HAVE A SHADY HISTORY, BUT...
NO, WAIT, YOU'RE MISUNDER-STANDING SOMETHING HERE!
IT'S ALL BECAUSE THIS WAS A GIRL'S UNDERWEAR.
AAAH, DARN IT.
IT'S PUBERTY, KUU.
HE'S A BOY AFTER ALL, KUU
POLTERGEISTS ALWAYS MAKE A FUSS WHEN THEY START TO INTERACT.
TAKEAH! IS SO CRUEL
PUNI-PEDME
SO KNOWING THAT I JUST GATHERED ALL OF THEM TOGETHER AND USED A SEAL
TAKEAH. HE, HE.
BUT IF KEPT TOGETHER WITH OTHER THINGS, THEY'D SULLY THOSE WITH THEIR MINUS VALUES
HO HO HO HO HO HO HO HO
THERE ARE PEOPLE OUT THERE WITH THEIR OWN PECULIAR TASTES WHO VALUE THESE FOR WHAT THEY ARE, AND THOSE PEOPLE SOMETIMES DROP BY.
SO WE CAN'T USE THIS ONE AGAIN.
YEP, THIS.
BUT IT WAS GOING TO LOSE ITS EFFECT SOON ANYWAY
AND THAT SEAL WAS..
W-W-WHA?..
WE CAN'T USE MINE!
SO TO MAKE A NEW ONE WE'LL..

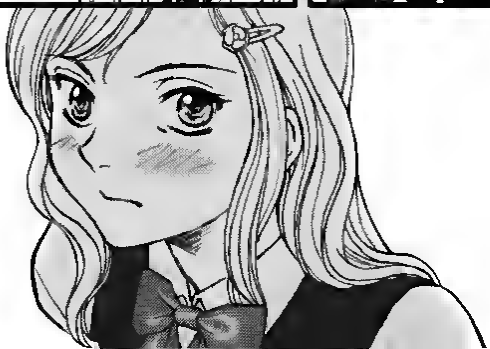

AAAH, WHAT DO WE DO...
BUT AT THIS RATE THE OTHER STUFF IS GONNA GET AFFECTED BY ALL OF THESE NEGATIVE VALUES, KUU!

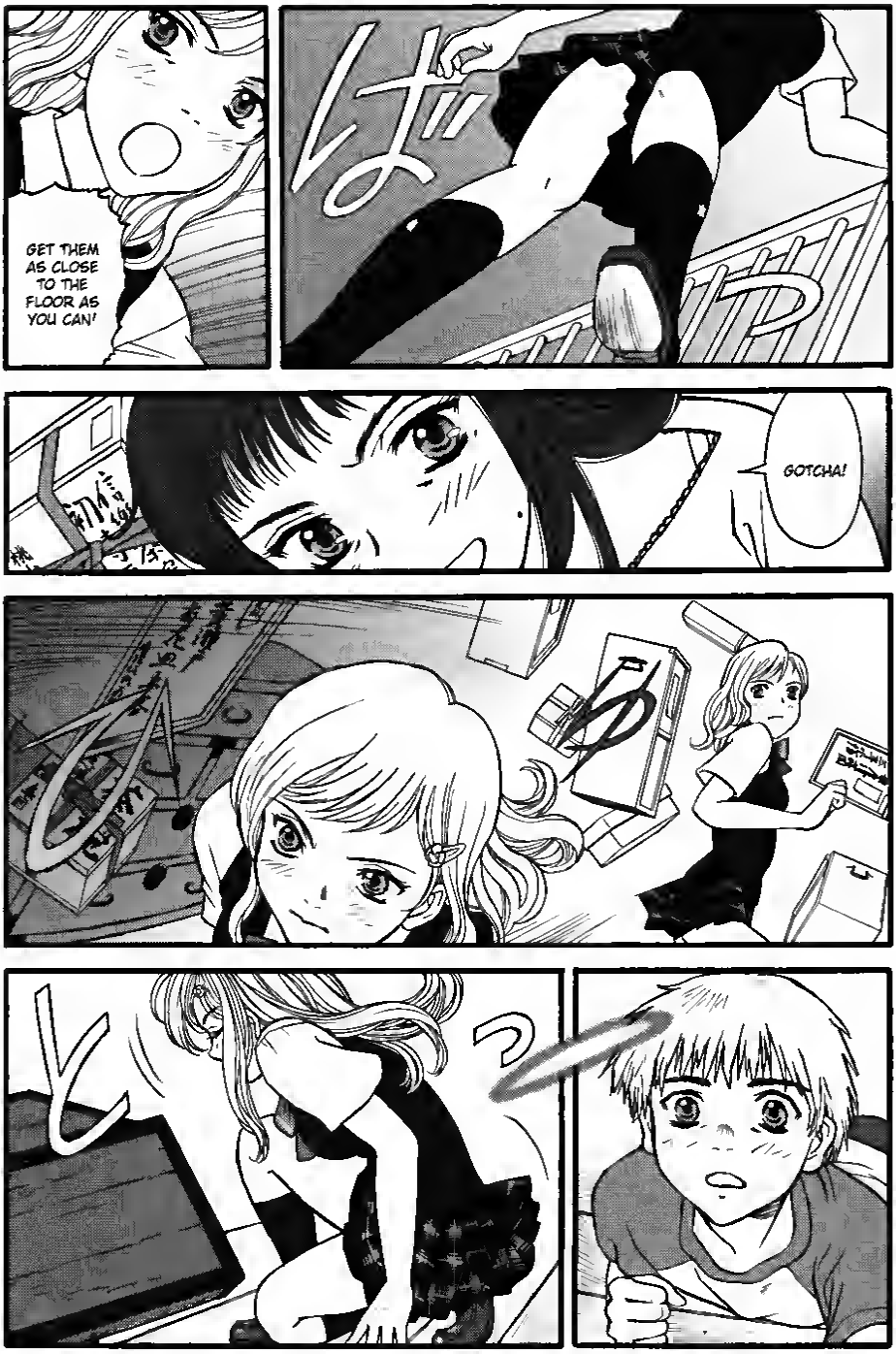

HUH?


HEY THERE, LENA!


AH
OH

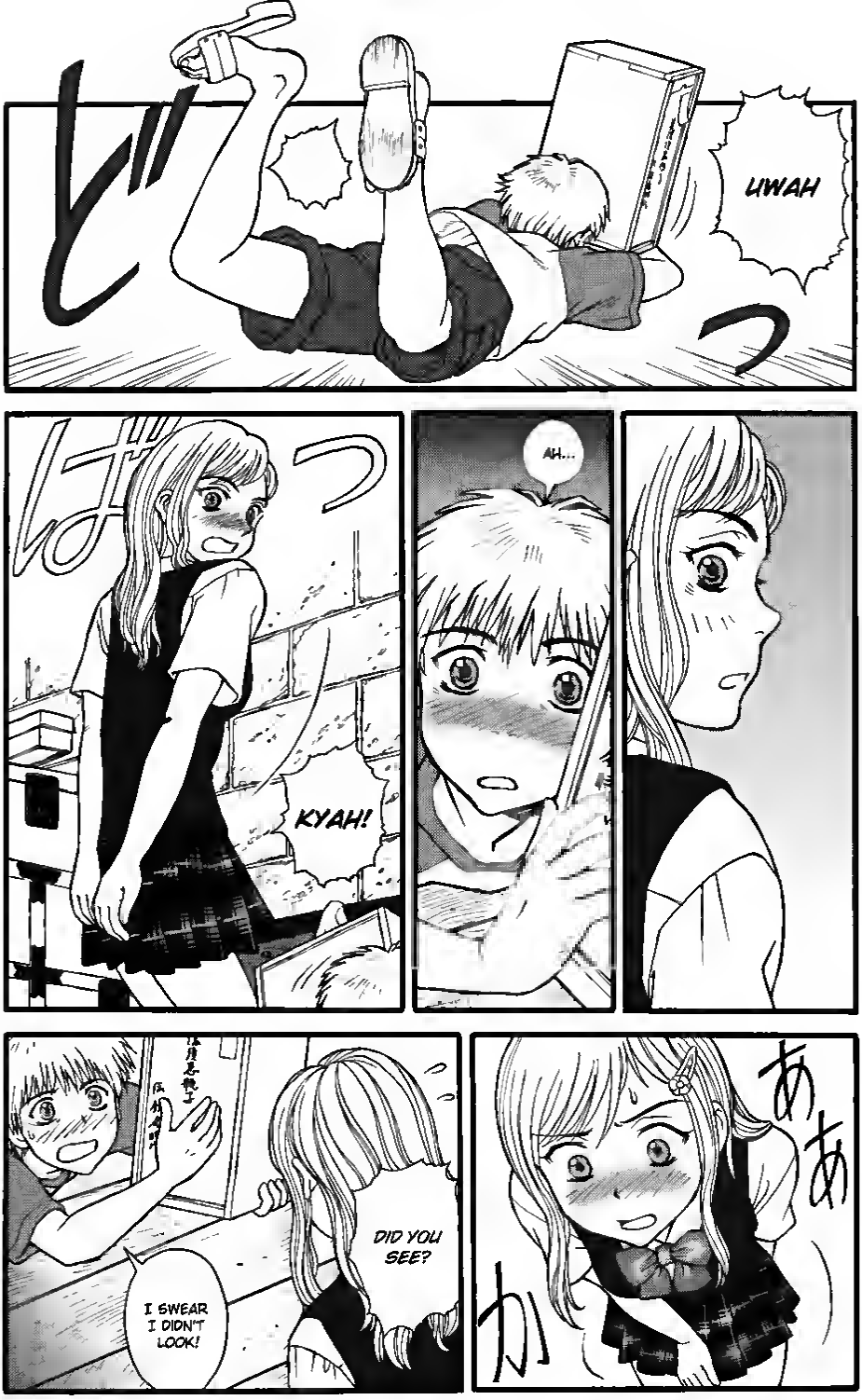
MAYBE SHE'S UP THERE.

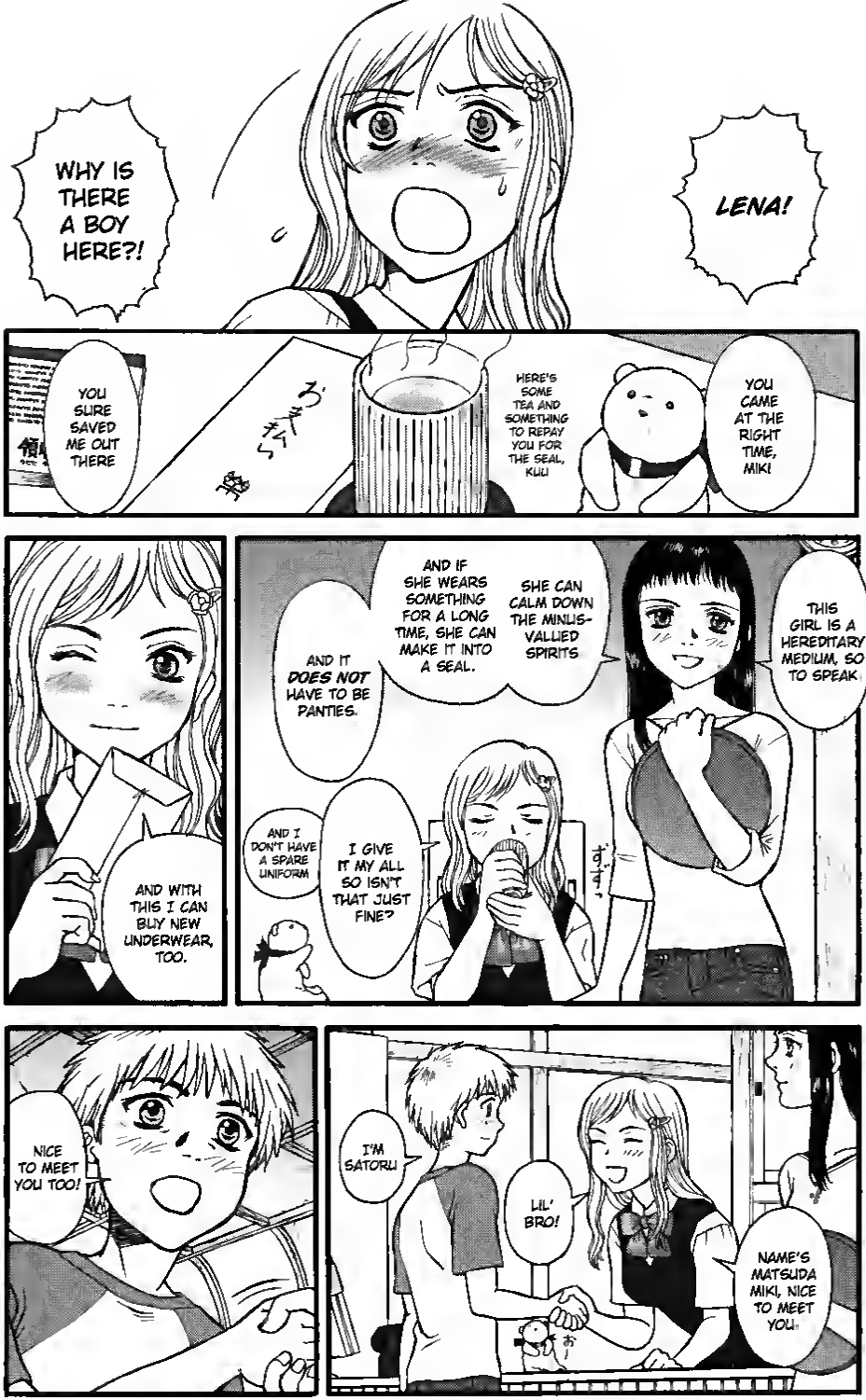


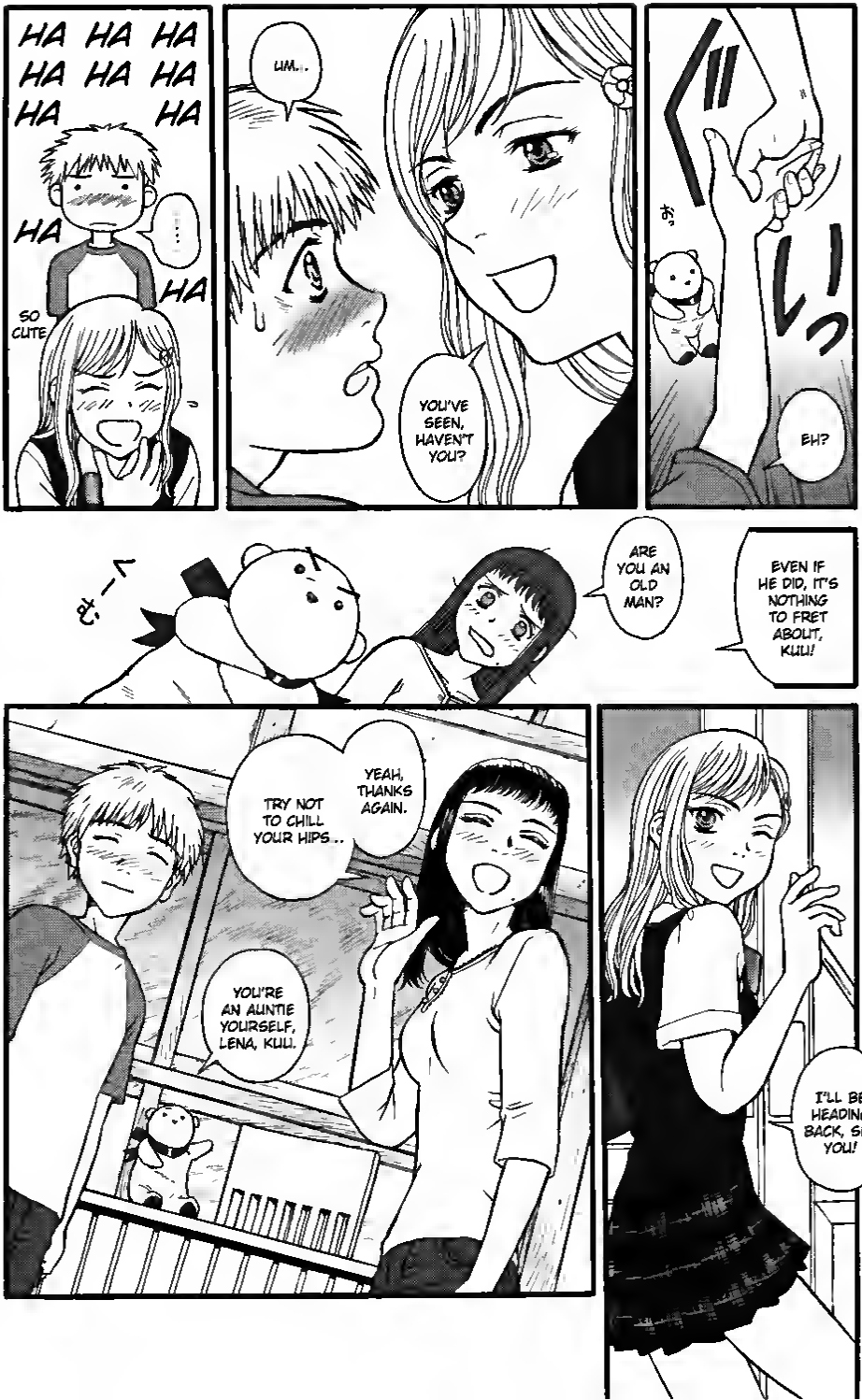

GET THEM AS CLOSE TO THE FLOOR AS YOU CAN!
ばっ
GOTCHA!
と
っ

FOR THAT GIRL..
WHY DID YOU
TAKESHI!
ぎゅっ
ばし
がっ
ガタン
CAUGHT!

ゴトン
ガタガタガタガタ
WHEW
バタン
AH-
しばっ


UWAH
AH...
KYAH!
DID YOU SEE?
I SWEAR I DIDN'T LOOK!


WHY IS THERE A BOY HERE?!
LENA!
YOU SURE SAVED ME OUT THERE
HERE'S SOME TEA AND SOMETHING TO REPAY YOU FOR THE SEAL, KUU
YOU CAME AT THE RIGHT TIME, MIKI
AND WITH THIS I CAN BUY NEW UNDERWEAR, TOO.
THIS GIRL IS A HEREDITARY MEDIUM, SO TO SPEAK
SHE CAN CALM DOWN THE MINUS-VALUED SPIRITS
AND IF SHE WEARS SOMETHING FOR A LONG TIME, SHE CAN MAKE IT INTO A SEAL.
AND IT DOES NOT HAVE TO BE PANTIES.
I GIVE IT MY ALL SO ISN'T THAT JUST FINE?
AND I DON'T HAVE A SPARE UNIFORM
NICE TO MEET YOU TOO!
I'M SATORU
LIL' BRO!
NAME'S MATSUDA MIKI, NICE TO MEET YOU.


HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
SO CUTE
UM...
YOU'VE SEEN, HAVEN'T YOU?
EH?
ARE YOU AN OLD MAN?
EVEN IF HE DID, IT'S NOTHING TO FRET ABOUT, KUU!
TRY NOT TO CHILL YOUR HIPS...
YEAH, THANKS AGAIN.
YOU'RE AN AUNTIE YOURSELF, LENA, KUU.
I'LL BE HEADING BACK, SEE YOU!